

Message Text

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS TOKYO 0140

USIAC

HONG KONG FOR AMB MANSFIELD AND USIS/MORT SMITH

CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. ATMOSPHERICS: WHILE PUBLIC WAS DIVERTED WITH TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR OBSERVANCES, NATIONAL DAILIES' DEEP THINKERS WERE PRODUCING TRADITIONAL THINK-PIECE EDITORIALS AND COLUMNS ON WHERE JAPAN NOW STANDS AND DIRECTIONS IT MUST TAKE THIS YEAR. THESE CONTINUED TO REFLECT SENSE OF JAPAN'S BEING PUMMELED BY OUTSIDE FORCES WHILE STILL TRYING TO OVERCOME RECESSION, BUT ACCEPTED NEED FOR POSITIVE JAPANESE ADAPTATION TO NEW SITUATION. MEASURES PRESCRIBED INCLUDED BETTER POLICYMAKING SETUP TO MAKE JAPAN MORE RESPONSIBLE ACTOR ON WORLD SCENE, OPENING UP ECONOMY MORE TO OUTSIDE WORLD, AND MORE DEMOCRATIC DOMESTIC POLITICS, WITH STRENGTHENED CENTRIST FORCES WORKING TO END STALEMATE OF LEFT-RIGHT CONFRONTATION IN NATIONAL DIET. SEVERAL FEATURES URGED GREATER EFFORT TO IMPROVE US-JAPAN TIES AND VOICED HOPE FOR JAPAN-PRC NORMALIZATION THIS YEAR. UNSETTLING NEWS OF
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FURTHER YEN RISE AND SRV-CAMBODIA FIGHTING WAS BALANCED BY FAVORABLE EVALUATIONS OF CARTER'S 10-NATION TRIP AND GOJ FORECASTS OF END TO US-JAPAN ECONOMIC TENSIONS WITH COMING VISITS OF WOLFF AND STRAUSS.

2. AMONG PROMINENTLY PLAYED NEW YEAR FEATURES WAS 150-COLUMN-INCH USIS-ARRANGED DIALOGUE IN JAN. 3 "SANKEI" BETWEEN AMB.

MANSFIELD AND SANKEI PRESIDENT SHIKANAI ON WORLD ECONOMIC TRENDS, EAST ASIA SITUATION AND US-JAPAN RELATIONS. HEADLINES STRESSED AMBASSADOR'S THEMES THAT U.S. AND JAPAN ARE SAILING IN SAME SHIP, SECURITY TREATY IS UNSHAKEABLE, AMERICA IS NOT LEAVING ASIA, AND BOTH NATIONS MUST WORK TO PRODUCE FIRMER BILATERAL FRIENDSHIP.

3. REPORTING WEEK ENDED WITH POST ARRANGING DEPARTURE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE FOR CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF, HEADING DELEGATION OF 37 INCLUDING 13 CONGRESSMEN--BIGGEST OF TEN CODELS VISITING TOKYO THIS MONTH. USIS WILL HAVE MAJOR INVOLVEMENT WITH SEN. KENNEDY, ARRIVING 1/9 FROM PEKING. FIVE-DAY SCHEDULE INCLUDES MAJOR SPEECHES IN HIROSHIMA AND TOKYO, MEETING AT KYOTO AC WITH LABOR LEADERS, SESSIONS AT DOSHISHA AND TOKYO UNIVERSITIES, PRESS INTERVIEWS ON PLANE AND FULL-FLEDGED TV INTERVIEW ON TRAIN BETWEEN KYOTO AND HIMEJI. ALSO SCHEDULED THIS MONTH ARE CODELS CRANSTON, CURTIS, HAYAKAWA, HOWARD, JONES, SATTERFIELD, STONE AND STRATTON.

4. USIS NOW COMPLETING FINAL STAGES OF IN-STAFF REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION FACTORS, INFLUENCE STRUCTURE, AUDIENCE DEFINITIONS AND PROGRAM POLICY, ALL AIMED AT CLARIFYING PRIORITIES AND SHARPENING PROGRAM FOCUS IN ADVANCE OF ZBB EXERCISE LATER ON. MID-JANUARY BPAO CONFERENCE WILL CONCLUDE THIS REVIEW PROCESS AND PERMIT THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING PROGRAMMING.
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